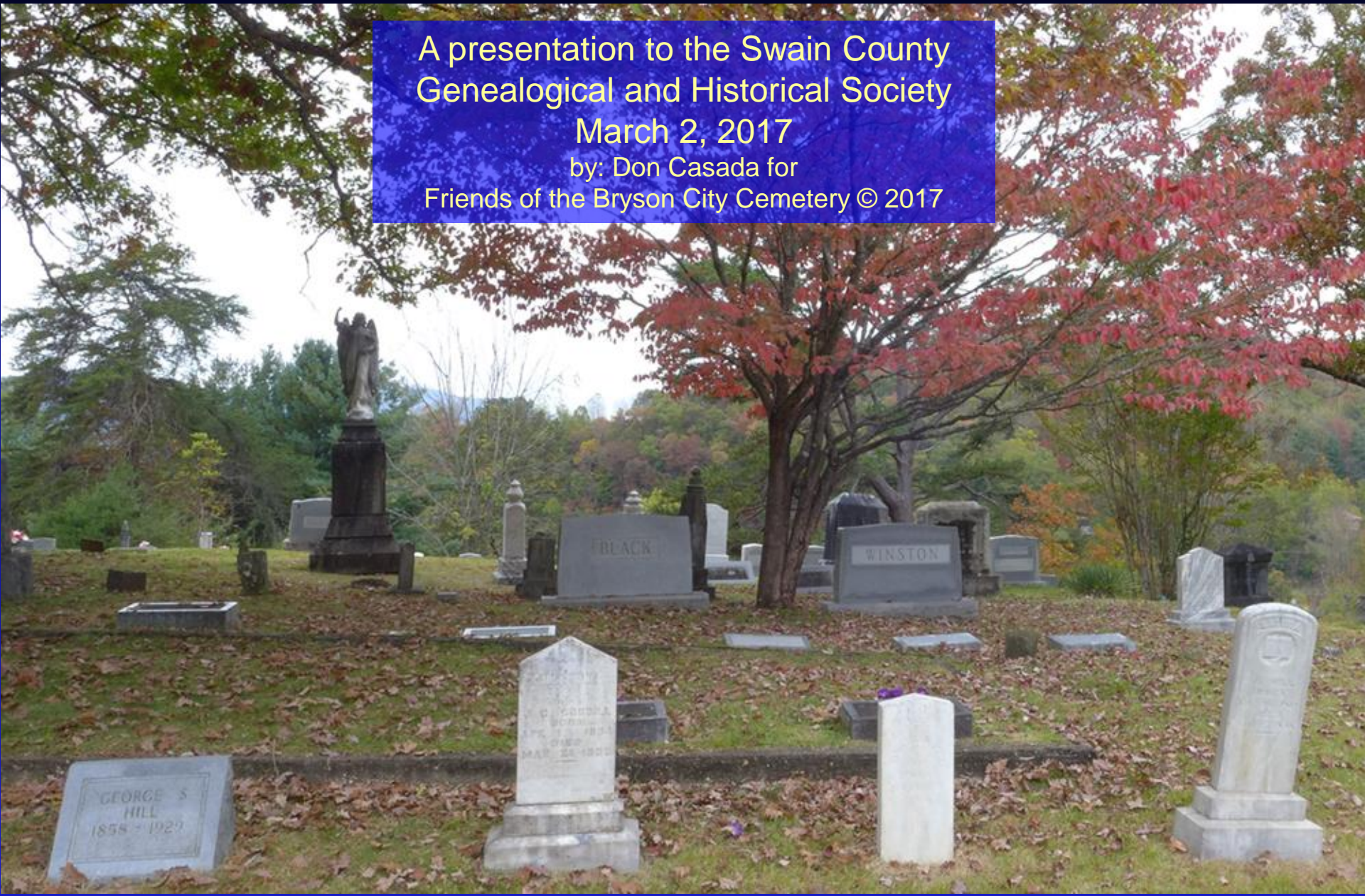
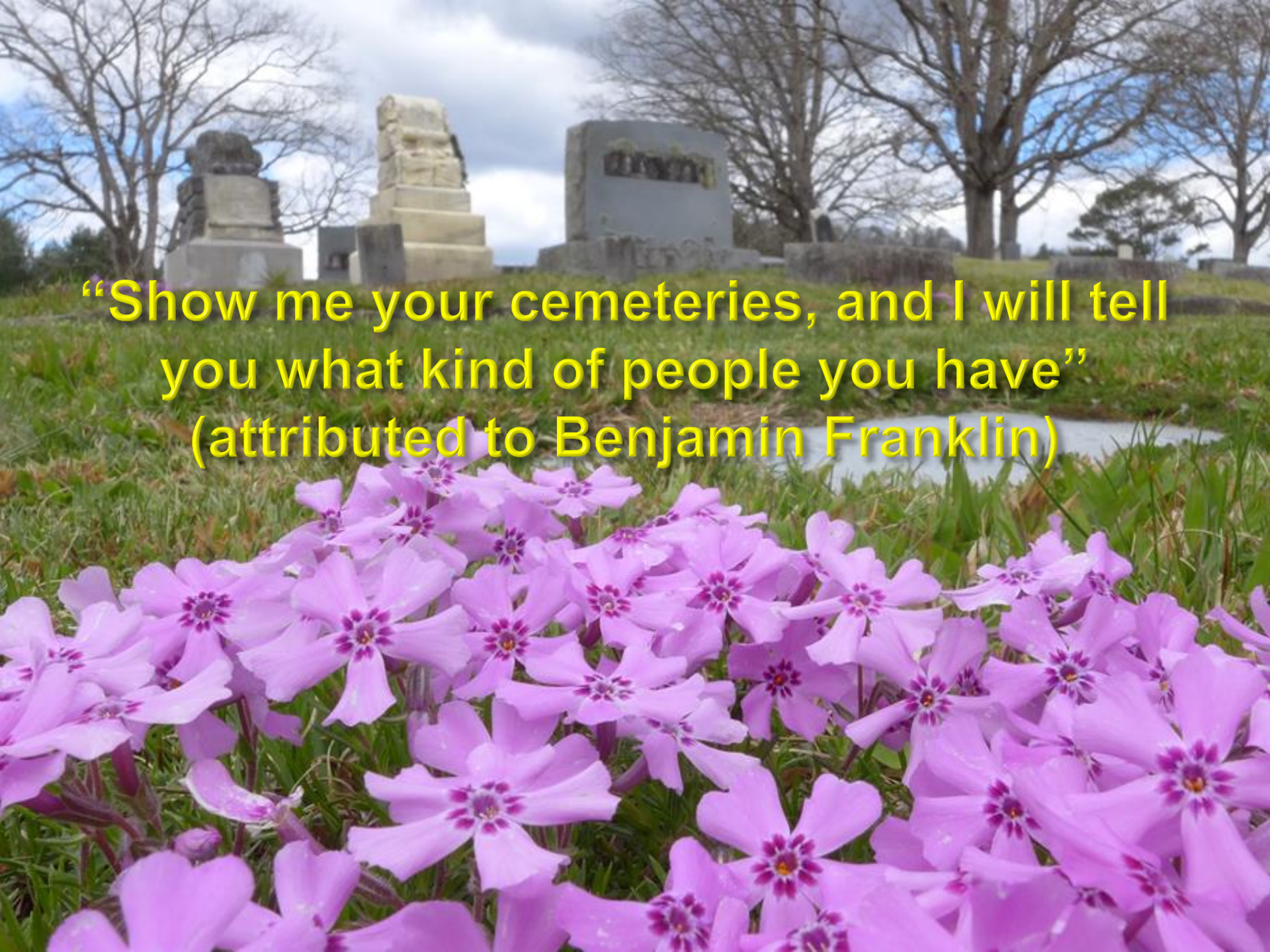


Honoring our Heritage on Hallowed Hill

A presentation to the Swain County
Genealogical and Historical Society
March 2, 2017
by: Don Casada for
Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery © 2017



A photograph of a cemetery. In the foreground, there is a large field of vibrant pink flowers with dark purple centers. The middle ground shows several large, weathered stone tombstones of various shapes and sizes, some appearing to be made of stacked stones. The background features bare trees and a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**“Show me your cemeteries, and I will tell you what kind of people you have”
(attributed to Benjamin Franklin)**

“The cemetery on top of School House Hill is a fine place to wait for the hereafter.”



On the Spine of Time, Harry Middleton

Bryson City area streets & features named for residents of the Bryson City Cemetery

Beck Cove Road, Bennett Hill Street, Bennett Street, Black Hill Road, Bryson Avenue, Bryson Street, Bryson Walk, Collins Street, Dunbar Street, Everett Street, Franklin Street, Fry Street, Fryemont Road, Greenlee Street, Henderson Street, Hughes Branch Road, Martin Street, Mitchell Street, Varner Trace, Wheeler Street

Park peaks named for folks in the BC Cemetery can be seen from the grounds



Kelly Bennett
Peak

Coburn Knob

Mt Kephart

SHERKILL

MAY 25, 1869
MAY 22, 1922



/

Then there's Frye Mountain to the south

Elements to touch on this evening

- ▣ History of the cemetery grounds
- ▣ Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery
- ▣ Tale telling and maybe a little tail twisting

A bit about the BC Cemetery history

**A marker near the graves of Lucy Ann Cline
and her family reads:**

**IN MEMORY OF
LUCY ANNE CLINE
DONOR OF THIS CEMETERY
AND THE PUBLIC SQUARE
IN BRYSON CITY
ERECTED 1971**

It would actually be correct if it said:

IN MEMORY OF
LUCY ANNE CLINE

One of seven grantors OF THIS
CEMETERY

February 27, 1884

John B Raby of Jackson County; MJ Wiggins and husband FH Wiggins, AC Cline, ME Cline, AB Cline, heirs of Alfred Cline and LA Cline, his widow, all of Swain County sold 2.5 acres of land “near the Town of Charleston, part of which is now used for a cemetery” “in consideration of the sum of \$62.50”

to:

D.K. Collins, Trustee of the Baptist Church

E.M. Scruggs, Trustee of the Presbyterian Church

W.T. Conley, Trustee of the Methodist Church

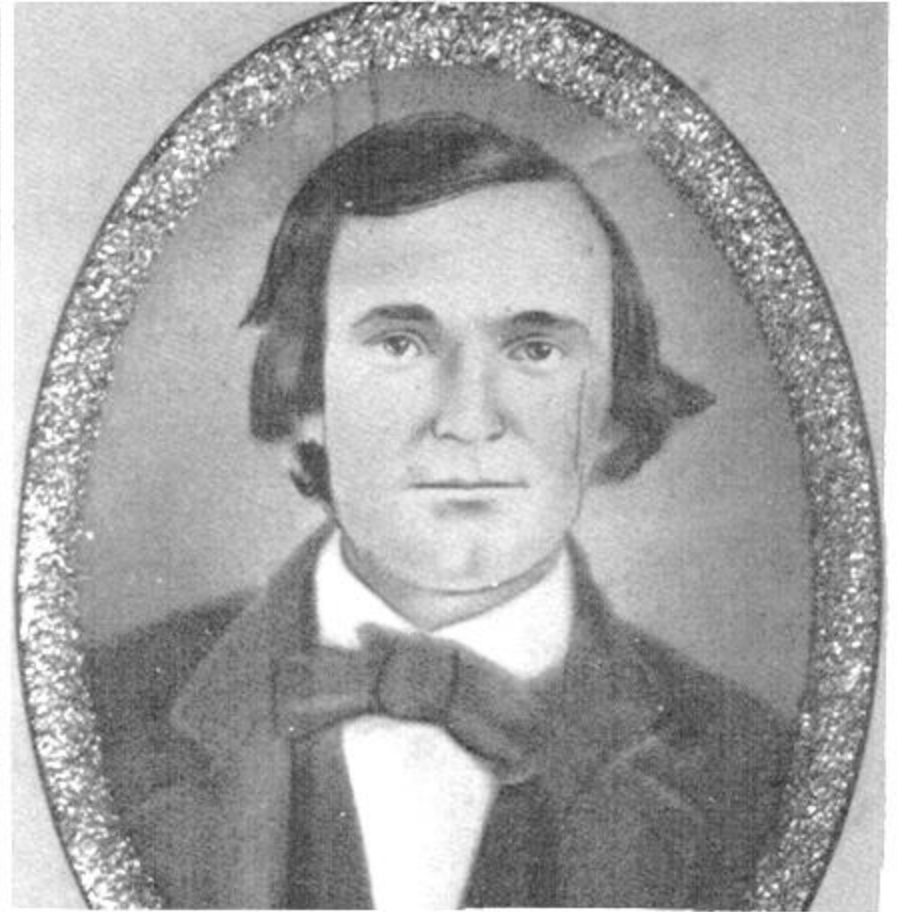
Selling price = \$25/acre

One of those already buried there was Lucy Ann's husband, Alfred



Lucy Ann Raby Cline

1828-1888



Alfred Cline

1832-1866

Sketch Source: Bryson City Centennial

From the Charlotte Democrat newspaper, Oct 9, 1866:

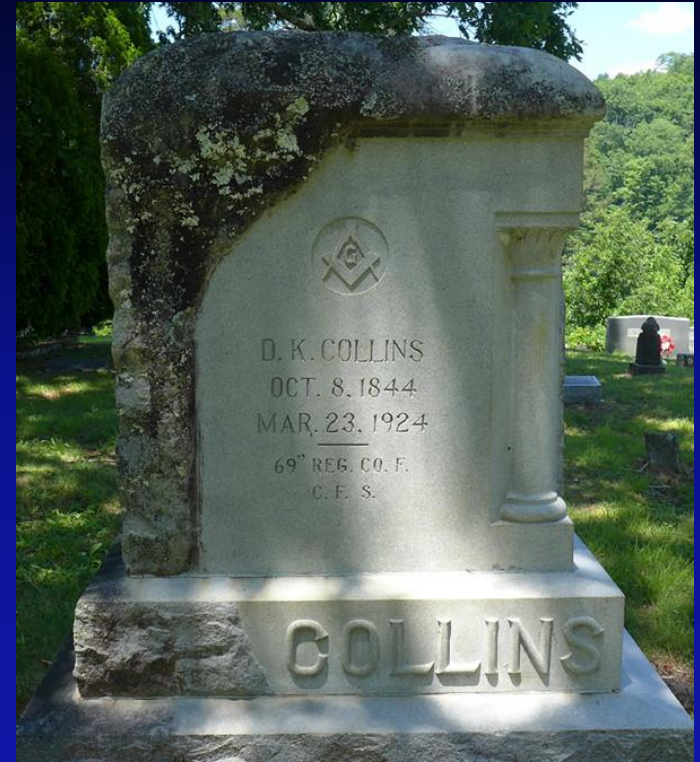
“A man by the name of Cline, residing in the lower part of Jackson County, was shot down in cold blood, a short time since, by a band of marauders from Tennessee, known as the Robert Burchfield robbers. Four of them came to the house of Cline a little while before dark, called him out, and pretended that they wanted to trade with him, he being a merchant, loitered about until dark, then pretended that they wanted a candle to count out their money. As soon as the candle came, without saying a word, two of them shot him – the balls taking effect near his heart, causing instant death. He leaves a wife and a large number of small children to mourn his loss. The murderers were able to make their escape to the dominions of Governor Brownlow.”

Karma for Robert Burchfield a decade later, courtesy of DK Collins



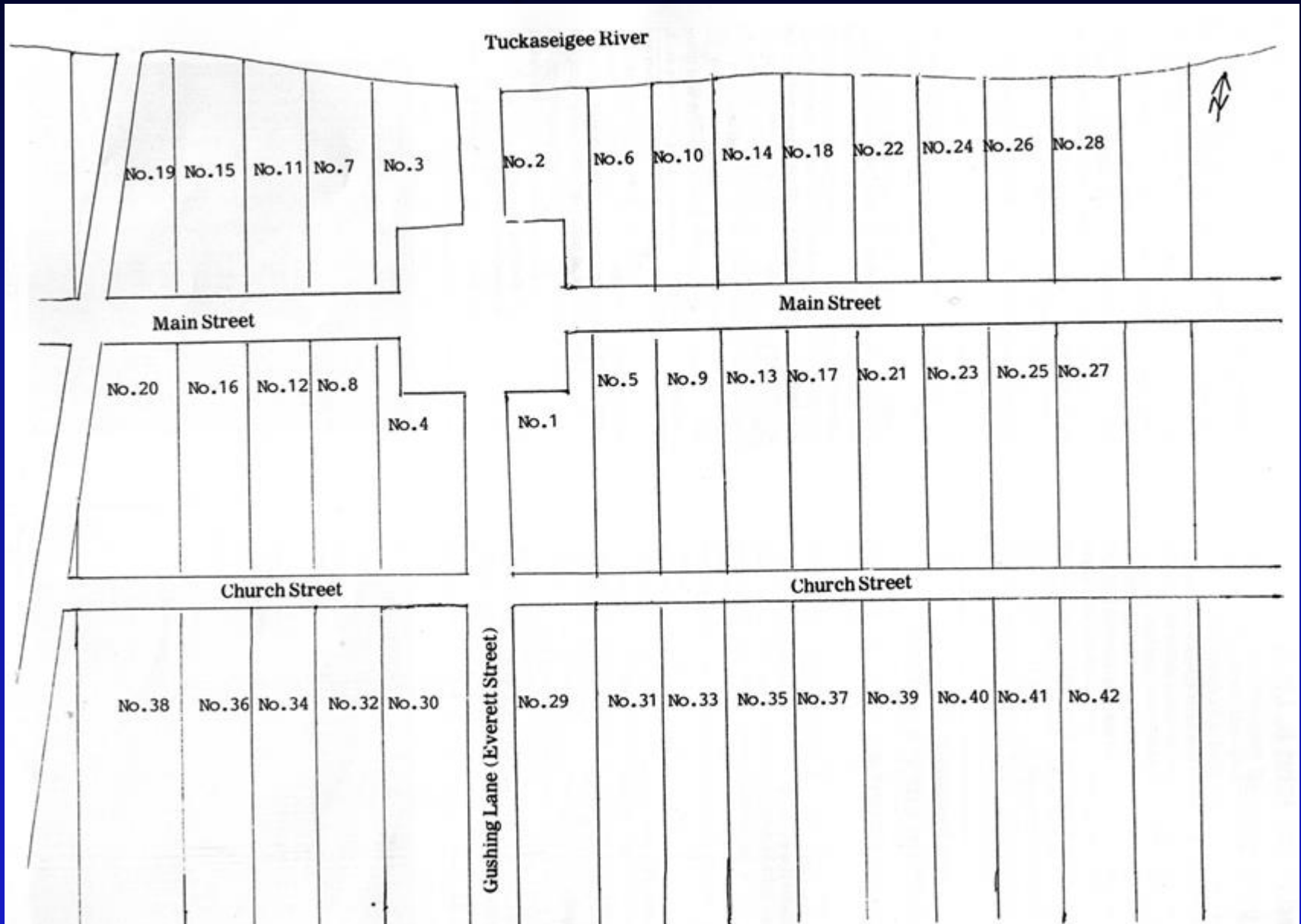
James Robert Collins

David Kimsey Collins



Photos of her great-grandfather James Robert and gg-grandfather DK courtesy of FBCC member Dawna Carlton.

By the way, Lucy Ann didn't *donate* the town square, either



From Fern Painter's gravestone



Fern Painter photo courtesy of Bob Thomas and First Baptist member albums

The Wife of Noble Character

She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.

In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise in the city gate.

Proverbs 31:16-20, 31

The church trustees sold family plots, but none were recorded until 1909

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA—SWAIN COUNTY.

THIS DEED, Made this 23rd day of November, 1909, by
W. T. Conley, Dr. Collins and Kelly E. Bennett, Cemetery Trustees of Bryson, of Swain County
and State of North Carolina, of the first part, to
M. A. McCauley of Swain County, and State of
North Carolina, of the second part :
WITNESSETH, that said W. T. Conley, Dr. Collins and Kelly E. Bennett, Trustees
in consideration of Five Dollars to them paid by
M. A. McCauley the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,
have bargained and sold, and by these presents, do bargain, sell and convey to said M. A. McCauley
heirs and assigns, a certain tract or parcel of land in Swain County,
State of NC adjoining the lands of _____

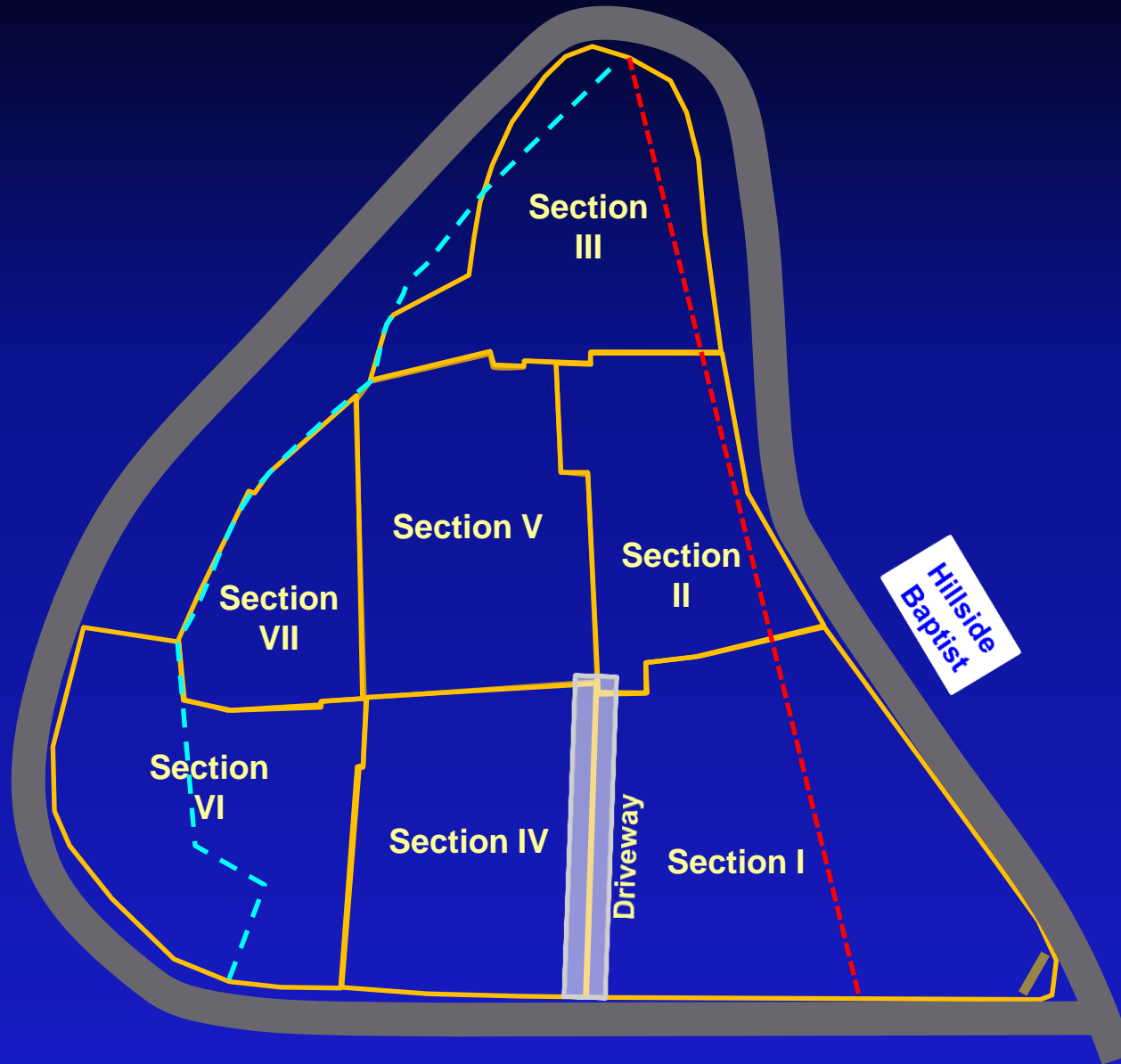
and others, bounded as follows viz:
Being a plot or lot in the Bryson City Cemetery including the
grave of Carl McCauley deceased Beginning on a stake near the
head of said grave and runs a South course 20 feet to a stake
then an East course 10 feet to a stake, then a North course to
a stake 20 feet said stake last mentioned being near a
little north of the foot of said grave then a straight course
10 feet to the Beginning

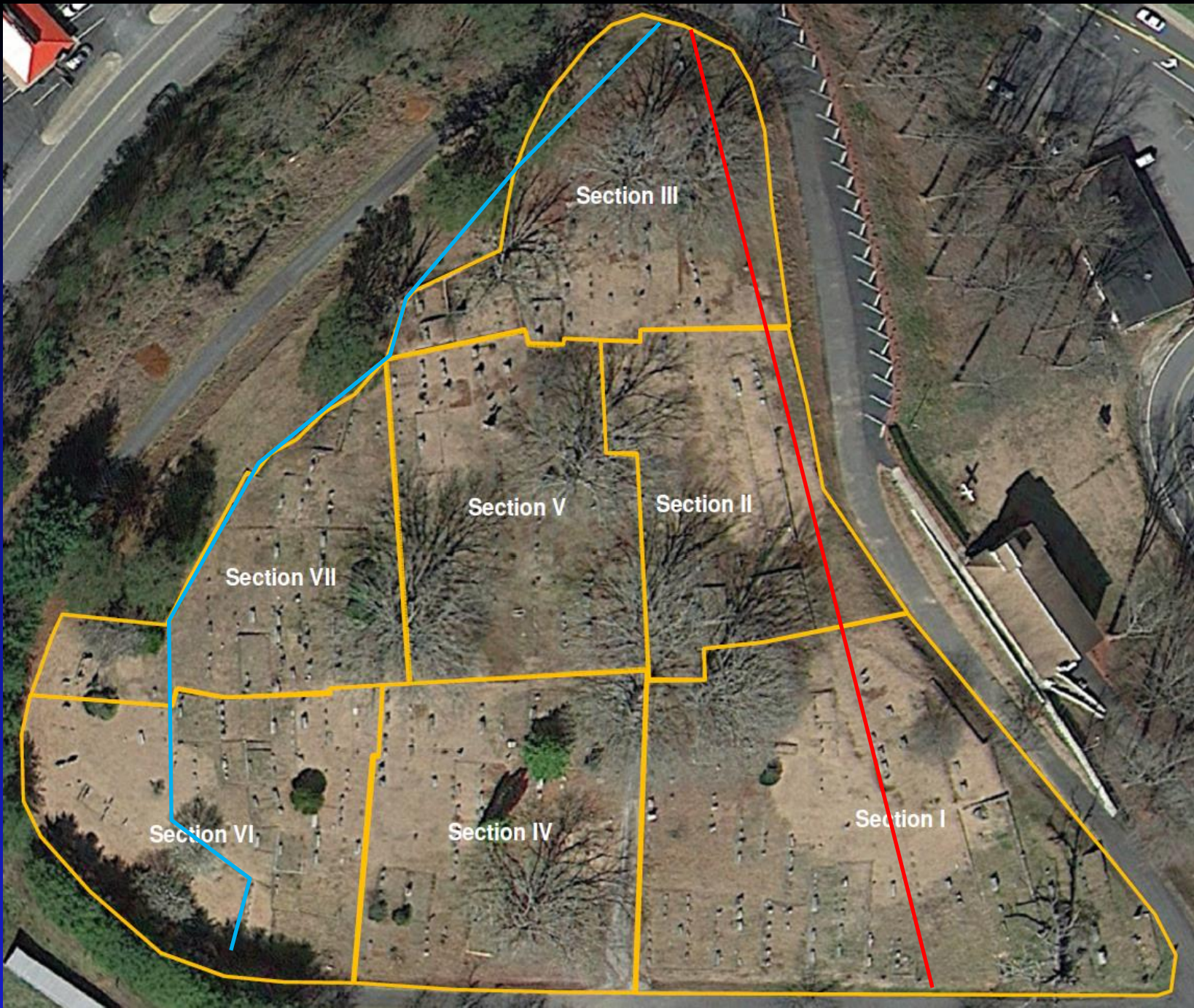
Deeds are in fee simple terms – just like a home or tract of land. No restrictions here, and as was often the case, the transaction came after the burial took place (15-year old Carlos McCauley died almost five years before the sale was transacted).

Adjoining the original cemetery were tracts owned by the Franklin and DeHart families

- ▣ The Franklins sold tracts as early as 1928 (to Bland Wiggins Coburn)
- ▣ In 1952, Coburn DeHart, whose property was on the west side of the original cemetery, and Berlin and Lillian Thomasson, who inherited the Franklin property on the east side, deeded a right of way to church trustees to build a loop road around the cemetery
- ▣ After this, both the Thomassons and DeHarts sold plots inside of the loop road for burial plots

Approximate DeHart and Franklin lines





Section III

Section V

Section II

Section VII

Section VI

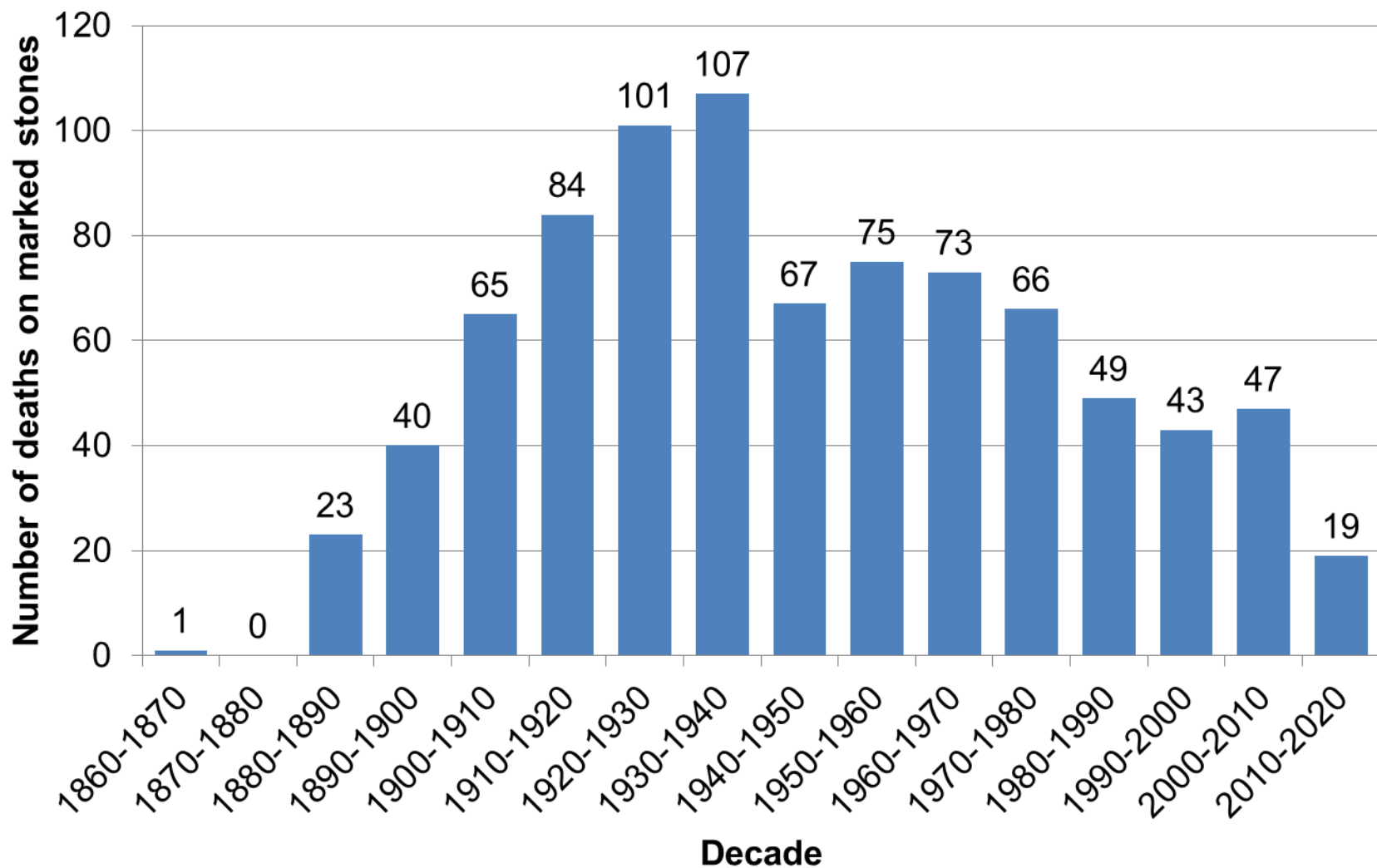
Section IV

Section I

Swain County Herald, September 12, 1889

“The citizens are requested to turn out Saturday, at 8 o’clock in the morning, to labor on the cemetery. Bring tools, willing hands and hearts and let us have the resting place of the dead tidied up.”

How many resting places were there to “tidy up” in 1889?



But.....there are at least 129 graves without an engraved stone

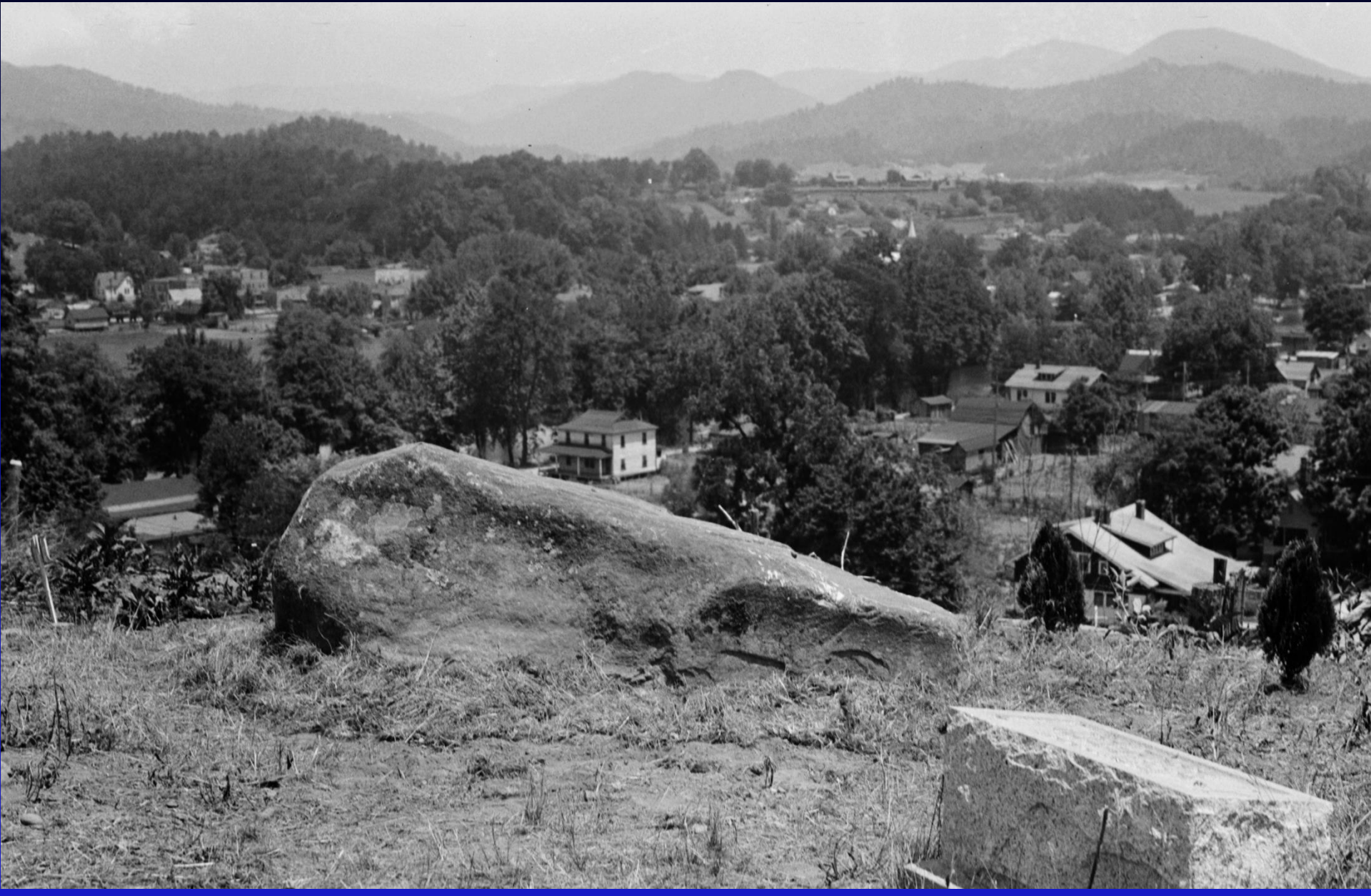
The Bryson City Cemetery, 1936

A.S. Patterson (1933) headstone

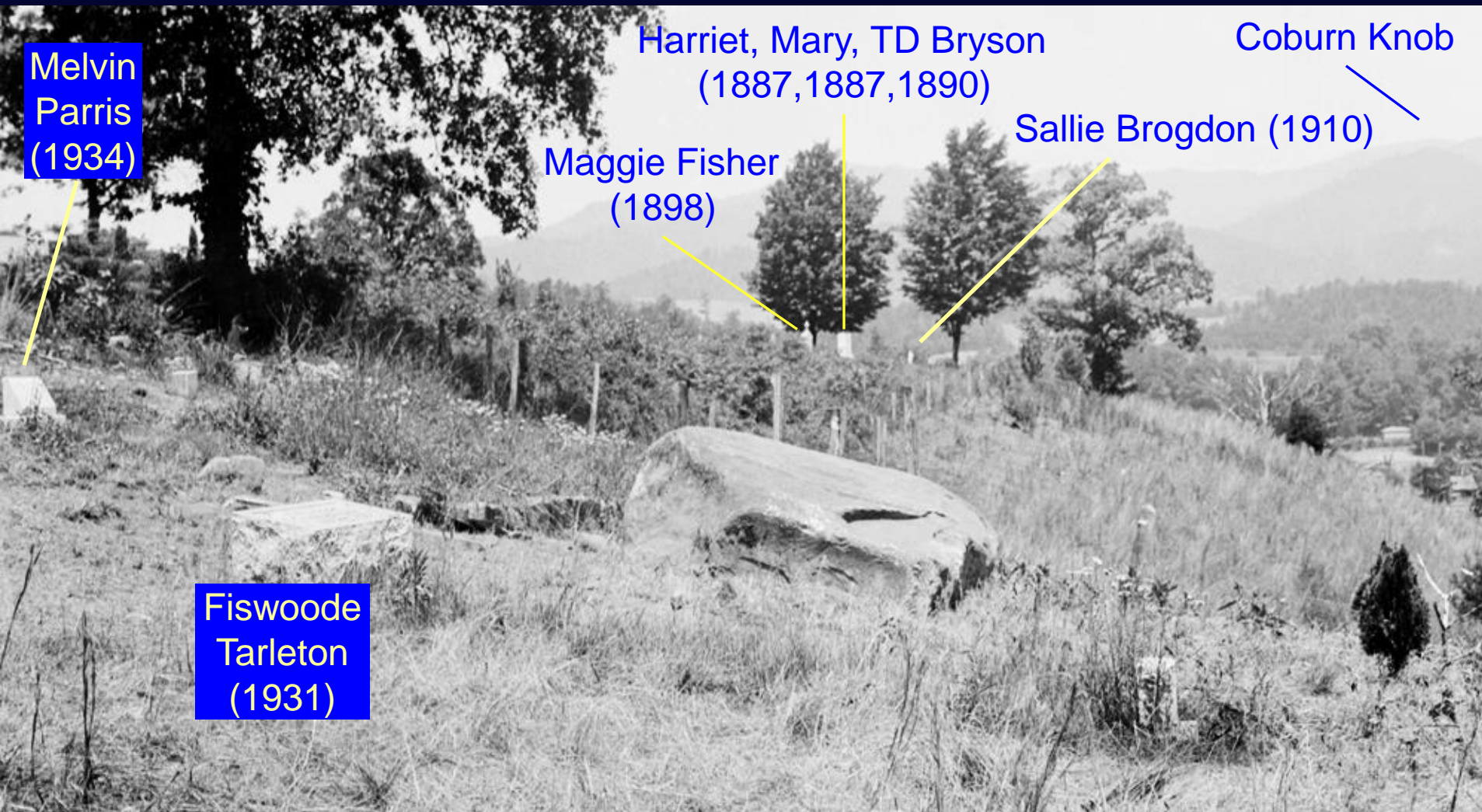


This and the related following photos come from openparksnetwork.org

A view toward town



A view to the NW; the quality of grounds care has waxed and waned over time



Paragraphs from Smoky Mountain Times editorial, around 1950

“It has been said that you can tell a town by the cemetery it keeps.”

“Only a short time ago, our local cemetery was anything but a letter of recommendation for our community. But, through the efforts of Bill Moody, aided by Dr. Kelly E. Bennett and Edwin B. Whitaker, who are trustees of the Bryson City Cemetery along with Moody, the hallowed grounds have taken on a presentable appearance. These three, especially the former, should be saluted by all of us who feel the need of a clean and respectable resting place for our loved ones.”

Cemetery maintenance appeared as a line item in the town budget for about 15 years

Year ending (mid-year)	Cemetery	Total	% of Total
1948	\$415	\$26,960	1.54%
1949	\$400	\$31,763	1.26%
1951	\$350	DNR	
1952	\$300	\$38,705	0.78%
1957	\$494	\$38,099	1.30%
1958	\$400	\$46,813	0.85%
1959	\$450	\$50,035	0.90%
1961	\$425	\$64,145	0.66%
1962	\$551	\$55,430	0.99%
1963	\$550	\$55,535	0.99%
		Average	1.03%
Budget values			
Actual expenditures			

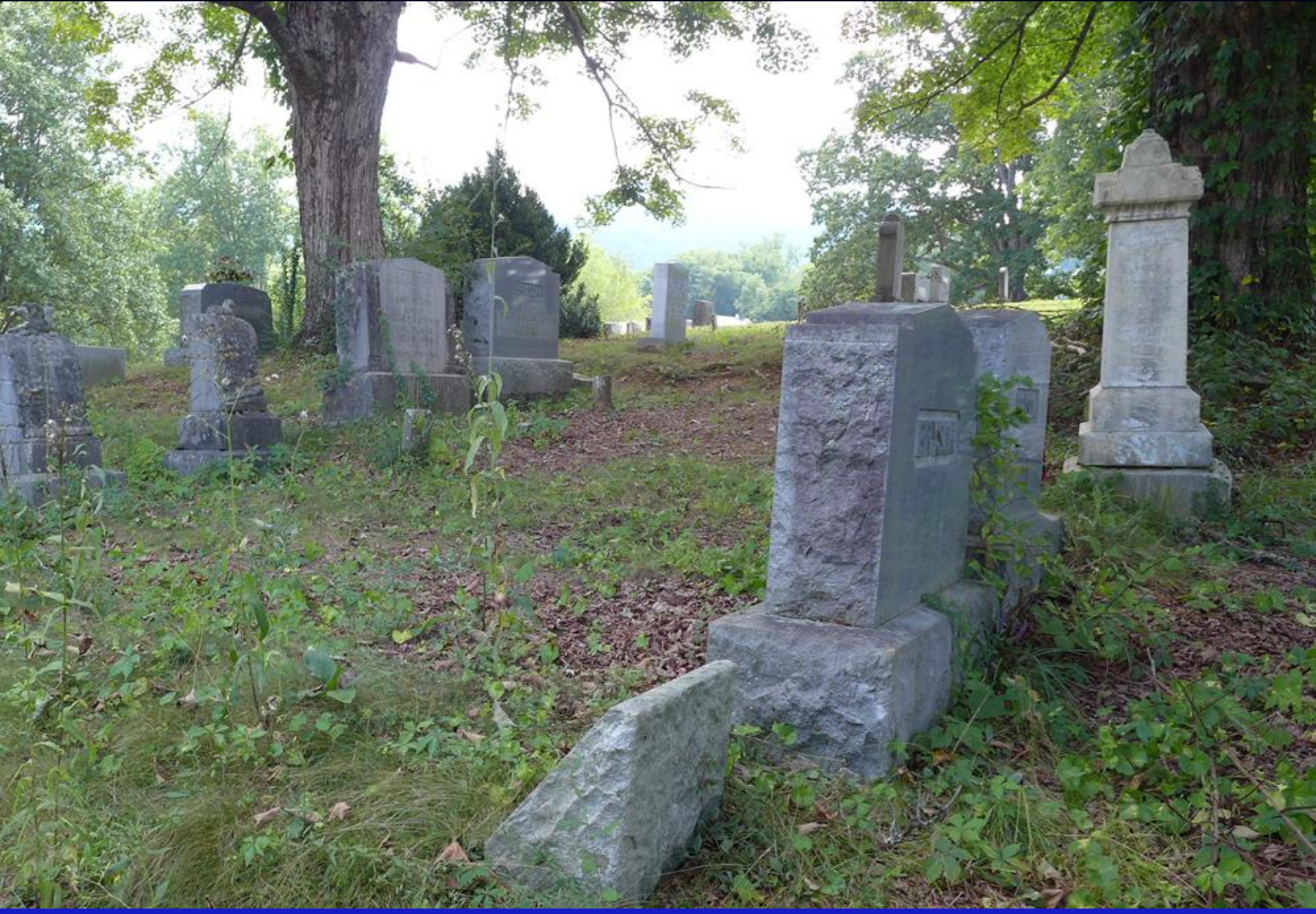
2016-17 is ~ \$1.46 million; 1% of that is \$14,600

Clyde Pilkington, April 22, 1975



Photo courtesy of Lisa Coday, granddaughter of Clyde Pilkington

Bryson family plot, summer 2015



From the Bylaws of Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery

The purposes of Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery are to:

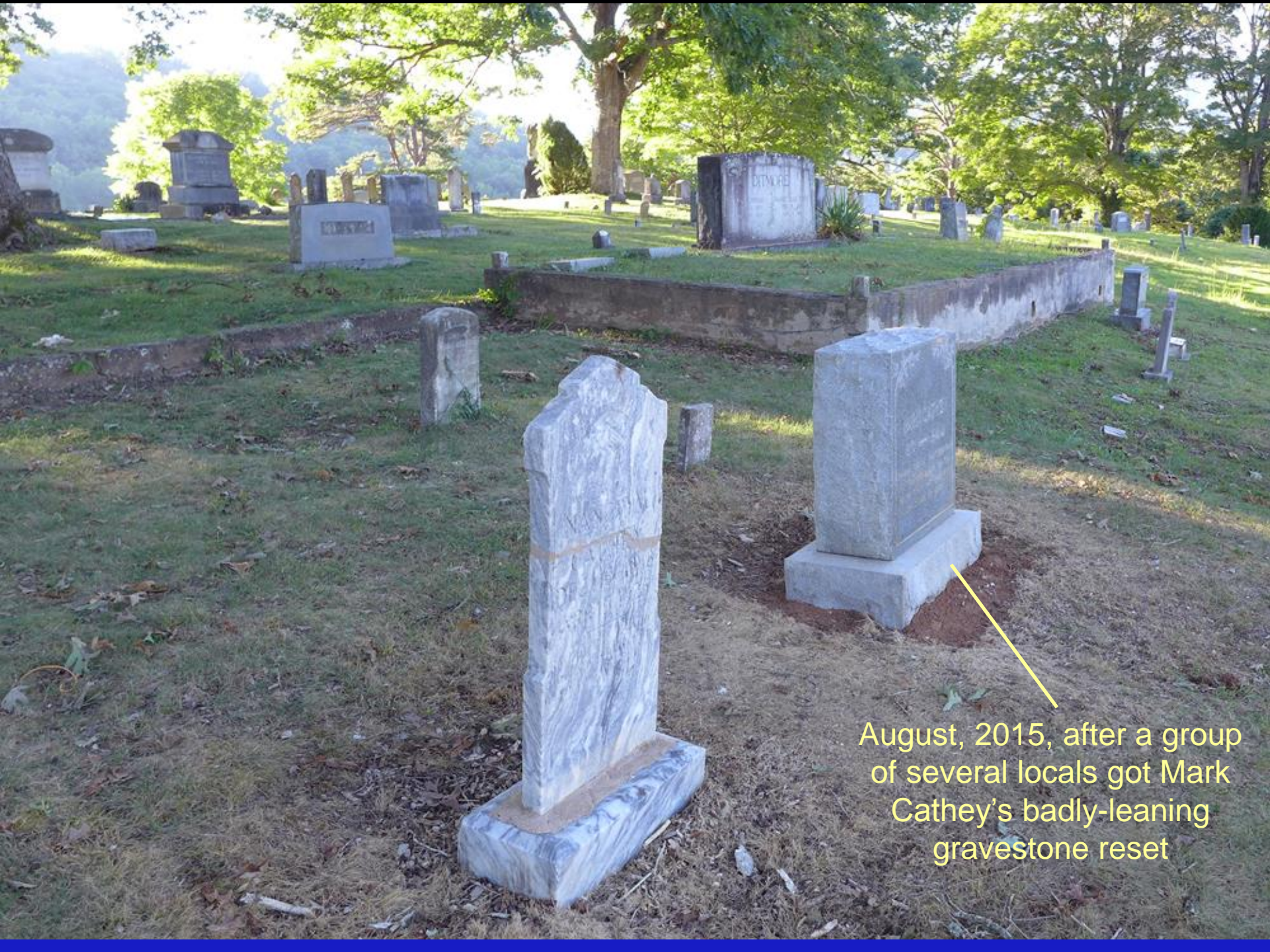
- A) Provide assistance in the restoration, maintenance, and preservation of the historical Bryson City Cemetery, and
- B) Foster knowledge of its importance to Bryson City, Swain County, and surrounding areas.

What we've been up to

- ▣ Mowing, trimming, leaf removal
- ▣ Dealt with invasive weeds
- ▣ Cleaning grave markers (~250 thus far)
- ▣ Tax exempt non-profit – 501 (c) (3) in 2016
- ▣ Filled in sunken graves (much more needed)
- ▣ Reset several stones
- ▣ Purchased a dozen stones (six placed)
- ▣ Bulb, tree, shrub acquisition & planting
- ▣ Quarterly newsletter and biographical sketches, ad hoc presentations, [web site](#)



August, 2015, not long after we first began caring for the grounds



August, 2015, after a group of several locals got Mark Cathey's badly-leaning gravestone reset



October, 2015

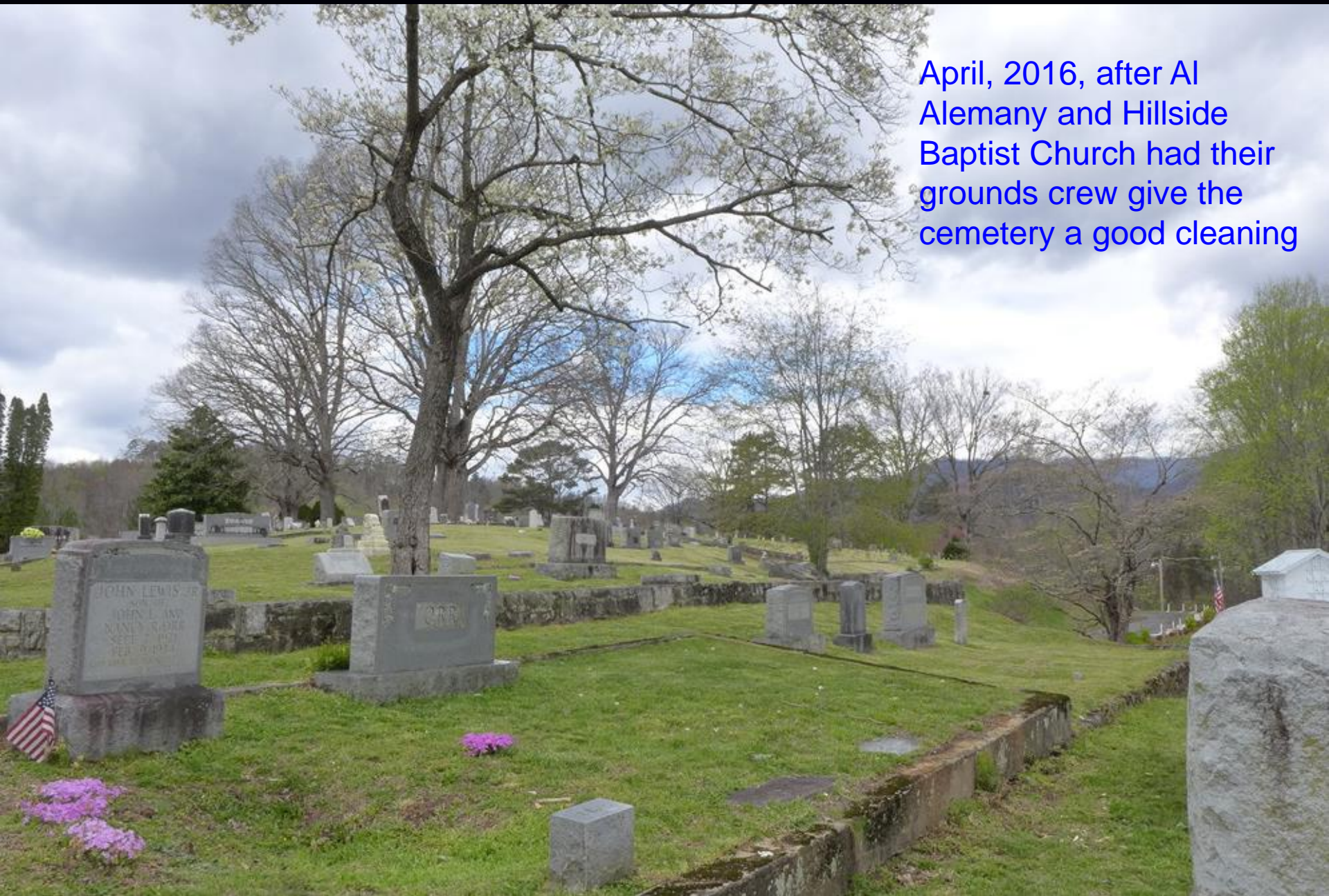


Jim Gribble, November 2015

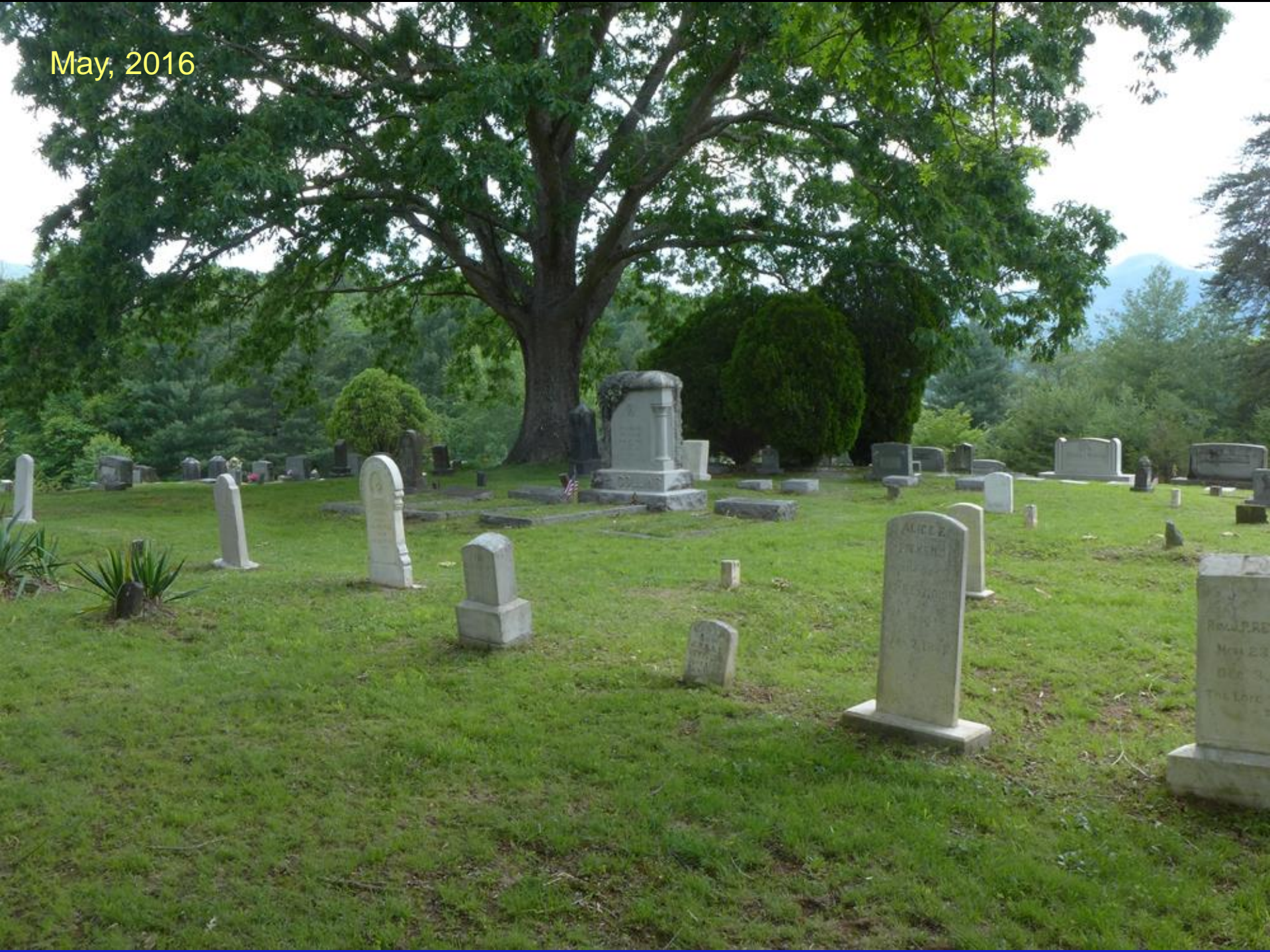
November, 2015 – Presbyterian Confirmation Class



April, 2016, after Al
Alemany and Hillside
Baptist Church had their
grounds crew give the
cemetery a good cleaning



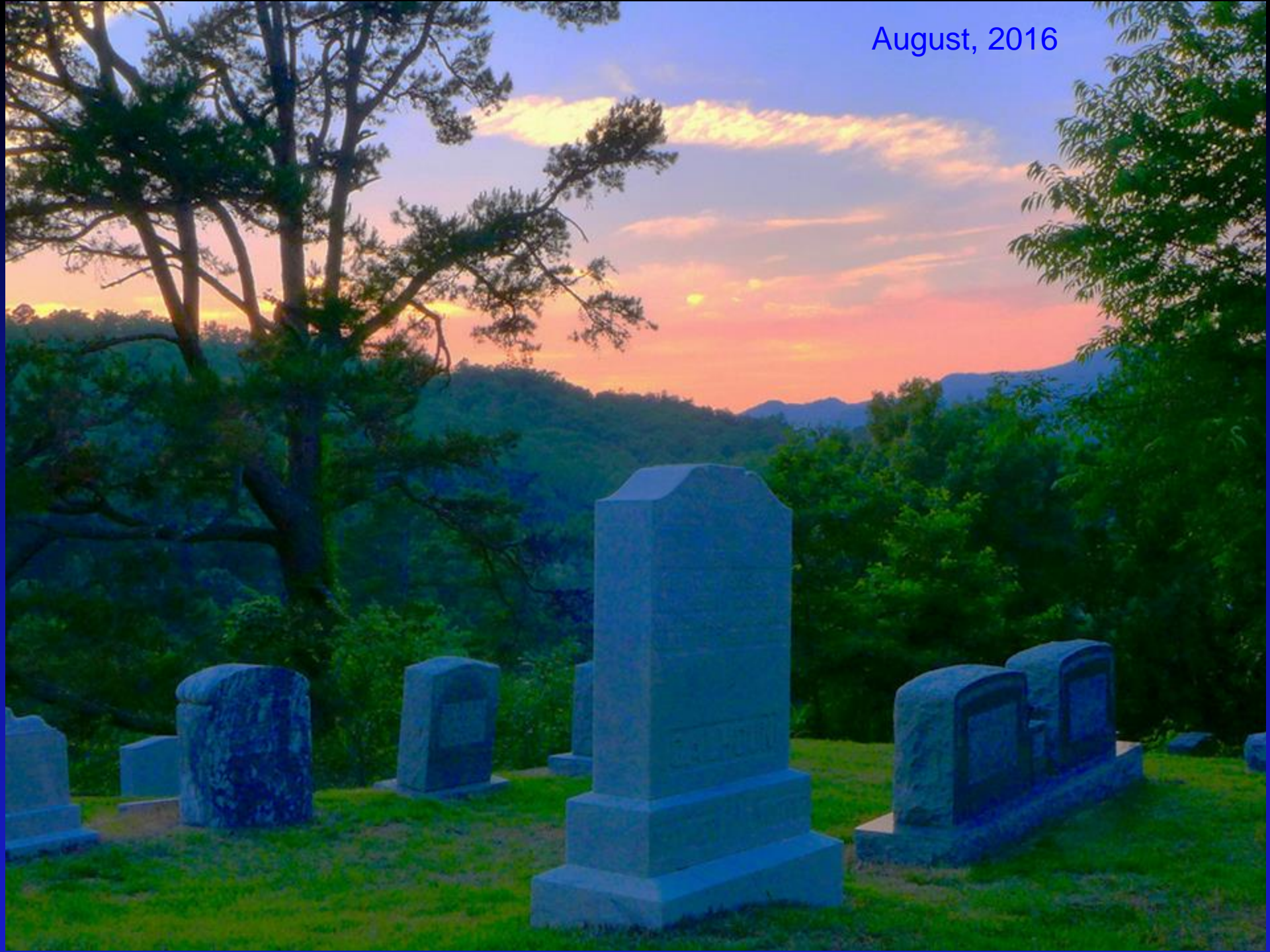
May, 2016



August, 2016



August, 2016



Peggy Seay and her 6th grade class, September, 2016



Colonel Anthony Monnat family and JROTC, November, 2016



January, 2017



January, 2017

IDA M. GALBREATH
DIED JULY
AGE 4YRS





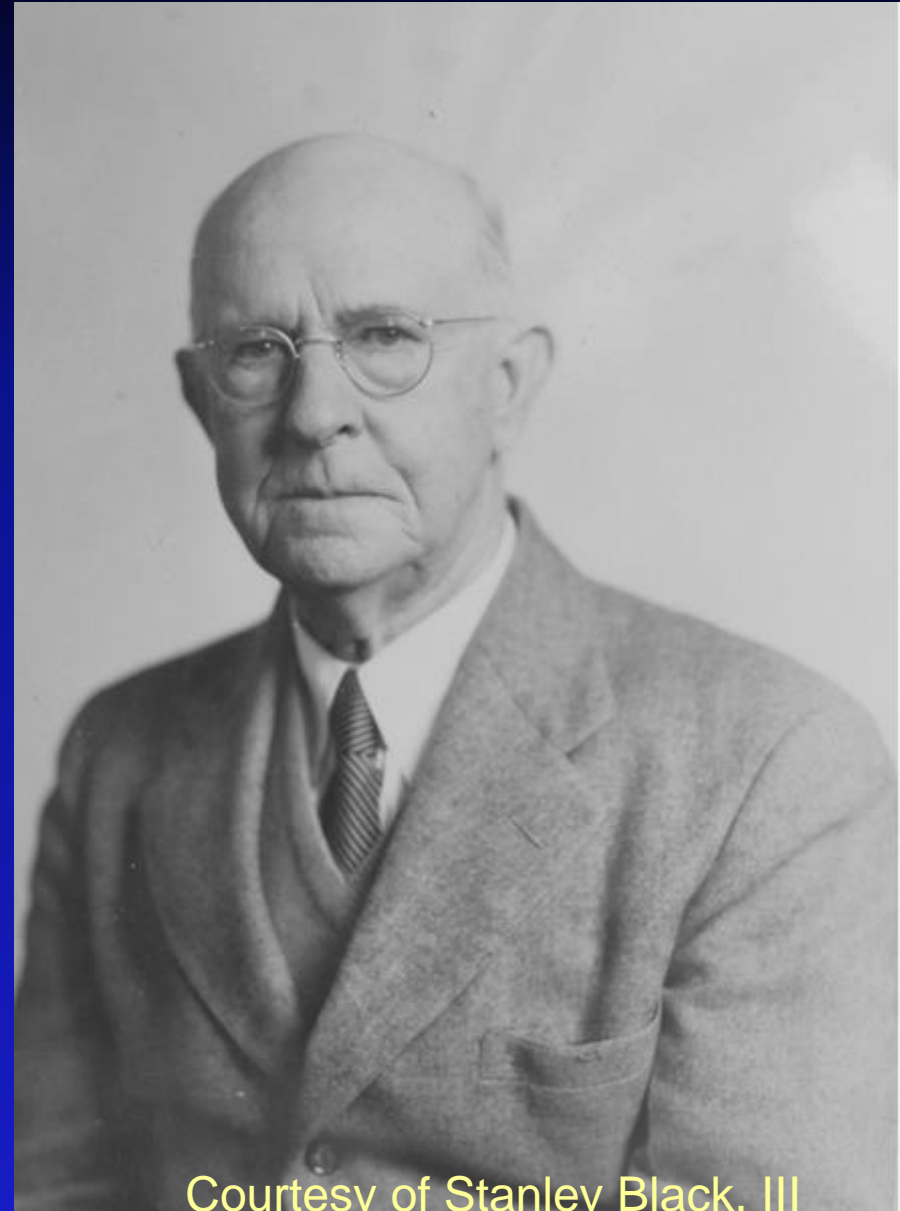
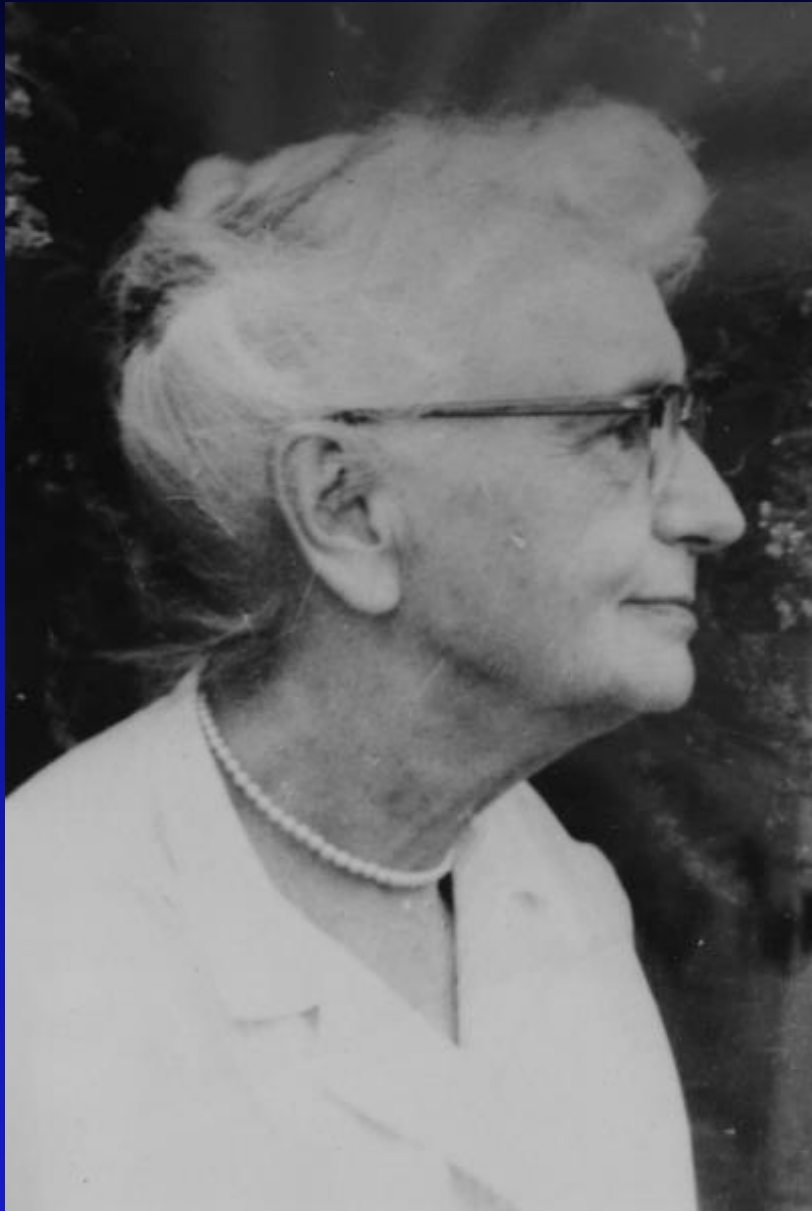
January, 2017

Some fruits of bulb-planting, March 2017



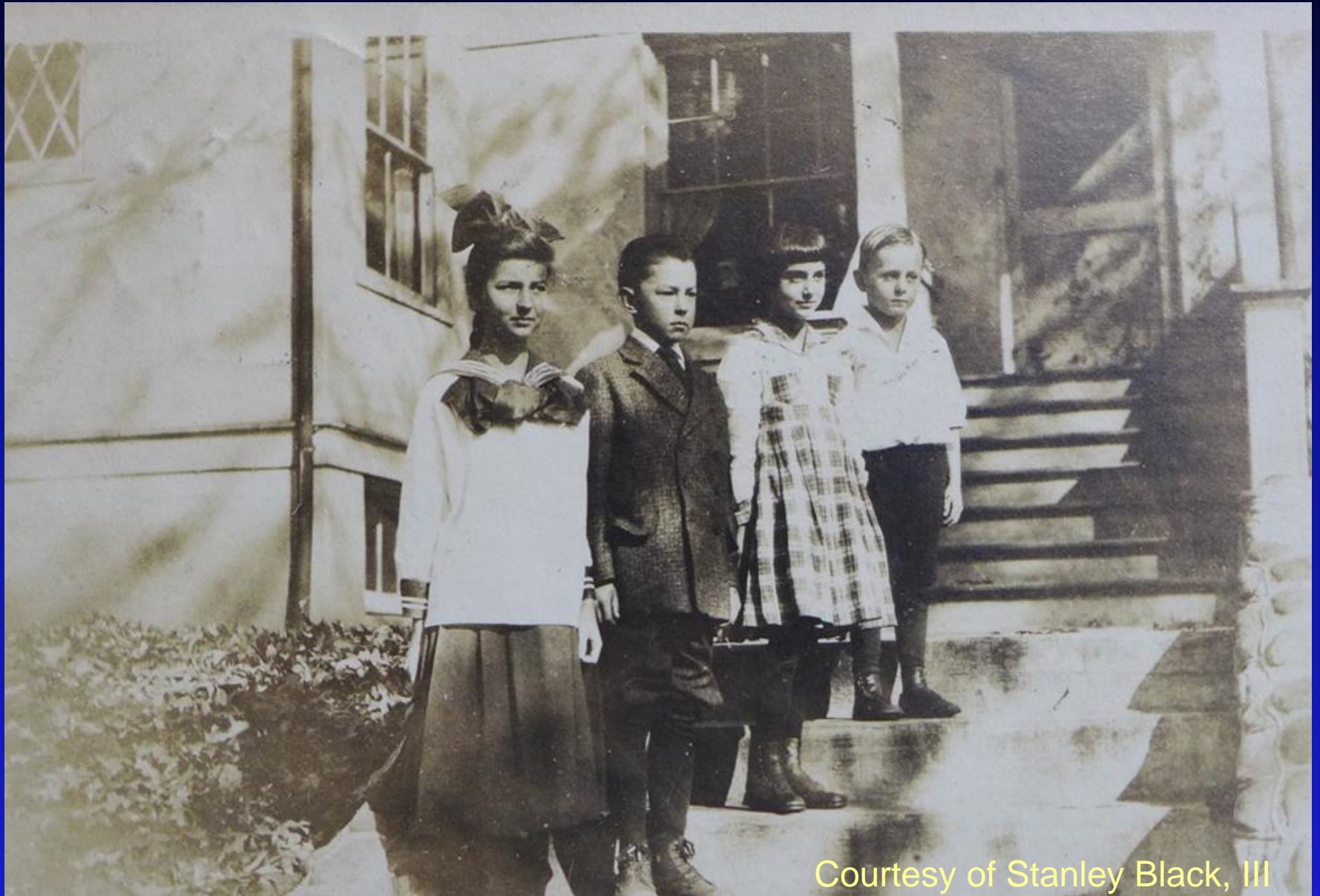
I want to come back to other efforts of the FBCC, but let's take a break with a story or two

My next door neighbors, Stanley and Marianna Fischer Black



Courtesy of Stanley Black, III

Ellen, Stanley, Jr, Louise, Fischer ~ 1915, at the Black's back door



Courtesy of Stanley Black, III



*To Ellen Winston
With best wishes*

Ans Beth

Courtesy of Stanley Black III

A tale worth telling and remembering: Weathering the Great Depression in Swain County

The actors

Marianna Fischer Black
Stanley Black
I.K. Stearns
Jack Coburn
Louis Fischer

The venues

Bryson City Bank
All of Swain County

A Fischer family photo



Courtesy of Stanley Black, III

Jack and Bland Coburn at home with family and friends



Photo courtesy of Rev. Bryan Jackson

Some community leaders at Ela Dam, 1930



Weathering the Great Depression in Swain County



Photo courtesy of Carl Grueninger, III, nephew of IK Stearns

Finally, a peek at our web site

Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery

